



April, 2010

Welcome

Spring has sprung and green up state wide is in full effect. The prediction of the intensity of fire season is still anyone's guess especially with the late spring snow. The newsletter has a new perpetual addition. A weather synopsis of the previous month will be added to every issue and future forecasts will be inserted every couple months.. The group at the Office of the Washington State Climatologist has offered information to include in our newsletter and we thank them.

If you did not know, when text contained within the newsletter is underlined and highlighted in blue it means it is a live hyperlink that will take you to a website or email the person. On some adobe versions you need to hold down the control key and then click on the link.

This month's feature article is on Carbon Markets by Steve Stinson, Family Forest Foundation, Executive Director.

If you know of individuals or group that would like to receive the newsletter please direct them to the [SFLO Overview](#) page and use the e-subscribe feature under related links. If you would like to have additional topics, your story, event, or update covered please feel free to email the SFLO at SFLO@dnr.wa.gov . You can also find us at the [SFLO Overview](#) page on our website.

SFLO and Stewardship Program updates

FREP The Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP) has recently received funding by the Washington State Legislature to compensate participating landowners for unharvestable timber on forested lands along rivers or streams. Washington State's Forest Practices rules prohibit landowners from harvesting timber on certain riparian lands. A condition of the funding is to update prioritization for acquisition of the conservation easements. The funding will be available for the July 2010 to June 2011 funding period. There will be more to come on this through the summer months.

FFFPP Each year we receive approximately 60 new applications for fish passage barrier correction. The cut off for the round cycle is coming up June 30th. To date we are about half way to our goal. Typically we get many applications in the final month of the cut off year. If you have potential barriers or know of those that do, please call Rick Kuykendall or download and fill out the FFFPP application and send it to us. Rick Kuykendall, rick.kuykendall@dnr.wa.gov , or call 360.902.1404.

New Fixed width buffer template for small forest landowners is now available. By “new” we are referring to the *fixed width buffer rules* (From Board Manual Section 21, page 16), which are as follows for each site class:

The main purpose of these fixed widths is simplification. No longer is there a core, inner and outer zone as you have in the standard rules. No longer is there a variation in these zones based on the size of the stream. No longer is there DFC, or 20 trees per acre in the outer zone.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Buffer Width</u>
I	145’
II	118’
III	101’
IV	82’
V	75’

On average, the number of trees required to be left under the fixed width rule will be about the same as the standard rules. You need to evaluate your stand and site and base your choice of rule depending on the site class, the size of the stream, the basal area, and stem count. A landowner may be able to harvest more trees under the fixed width rule vs. the standard rule, or vice-versa. Its site dependent, but in general, the difference won’t be much other than a simpler process designed for the small forest landowner. For specific questions about your site and use of the fixed width buffer template contact your local DNR region office.

Riparian Open Space Program the 2009 Legislature allocated additional funding to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Riparian Open Space Program. This program offers an option to owners of timbered lands within unconfined channel migration zones (CMZ). As part of the Riparian Open Space Program, willing landowners can apply to donate or sell a permanent conservation easement covering the trees, or land and trees, to the DNR.

To be eligible for this program the land located in the project must be identified in county assessor records as “designated forest land” under chapter 84.33 RCW or “current use forest land” under chapter 84.34 RCW. Also the land in the project must be free of unacceptable liabilities, such as presence of hazardous waste on the site. For those projects that have multiple interests in the property, all parties must agree to convey or subordinate their interest to the state to the extent necessary for the purchase.

The application form and instructions, along with additional general information about the Riparian Open Space Program may be found by following the link. [Click here.](#)

If you would like me to mail you an application and instructions, contact Dan Pomerenk in Olympia at (360) 902-1427 or dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov.

Feature Article

Carbon Policy at the Federal, Regional and State Level—a Synopsis, Steve Stinson

Executive Director of the Family Forest Foundation and a member of the Forest Sector Working Group, 360-736-5918 or stevestinson@familyforestfoundation.org

Last summer, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454). The 1,428 page bill has two provisions that could have a significant impact on our forest ownerships: a mandate to produce increasing amounts of energy from renewable fuels (including an improved definition of forest biomass) and a green house gas cap-and-trade system that would allow polluters to purchase offset credits from forestry projects. The bill also included language for a carbon incentive program focused on family forest ownerships and gives the US Department of Agriculture the authority to develop offset programs rather than the Environmental Protection Agency. Another late addition to H.R. 2454 is the creation of “term” offset projects that may extend up to 5 years for agricultural practices, and to 20 years for forestry practices. The Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized to identify the types of projects that qualify for term offsets, as well as whether particular project types can be renewed at the end of their initial terms. If a project is issued a “term offset,” the manager need only account for a reversal if it occurs during the specified term. Thus, a forester could obtain a 20-year term credit for increasing carbon sequestration, without being bound to use those practices for more than 20 years.



After a bruising battle over health care reform, the action has now moved to the U.S. Senate where the challenges incorporating forestry offsets into a climate mitigation strategy will be focused around the “additionality” and “permanence” standards. Recently, Senator Shaheen (D-NH) along with 7 colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, introduced *The Forest Carbon Incentives Program Act of 2009 (S 1576)*. S 1576, creates a new Forest Carbon Incentive Program that would reward forest landowners for completing practices that increase carbon sequestration and storage on their land. Another approach called “Cap and Dividend” has been introduced by Senators Cantwell (D-WA) and Green (D-MO) offers a much simpler and intriguing approach. Given the political difficulties in passing climate change legislation after the health care reform debate, and with midterm elections ahead most are predicting no action from the Senate in 2010.

At the regional level, the Western Climate Initiative (supported by our Governor and the Department of Ecology) has been working with multiple states and some Canadian provinces to develop a regional cap and trade system. While still in development, numerous documents can be found at <http://westernclimateinitiative.org/>

Locally, the Forest Sector Working Group has had preliminary discussions to determine how best to respond to the Governor’s Climate Change Mandate from last legislative session. Given stakeholder focus at the national level there has been little interest amongst participants in developing state level protocols. However, there has been interest in reconvening the group and concentrating on developing the Washington State incentives program outlined in the 2008 report. The objective being to influence the federal program and provide opportunities for landowners who use practices that promote carbon storage but likely won’t qualify as offsets under WCI criteria.

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Participants would like to see a forestry incentives program regardless of what happens with cap and trade legislation at the federal level.

Under current protocols it's likely that small family forest owners, especially those owning less than 100 acres, will find it difficult to participate in offset markets. The costs associated with the measuring, monitoring, and verification requirements even under aggregation programs far exceed the current value of tradable carbon credits.

Exactly when a Federal or regional cap and trade system will be enacted much less how forest management activities will be treated is difficult to say. Hopefully, regulatory approaches will be accompanied by incentive programs similar to the concepts outlined in the Forest Carbon Incentives Program so that family forest landowners of all sizes will be able to compensate for contributing to carbon mitigation strategies.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Diversifying Income Opportunities on Small Woodlands will be presented **May 1st**, **May 22nd**, and **June 19th**. The purpose of the event is to understand unique markets and tools available to small forest landowners. For more information contact Kirk Hanson at 360.316.9317 or by email kirk@nnrg.org.

WSU Extension Forest Stewardship Spring Social will be **May 5th** in Everett. There will be several presentations about local, national, and international issues on forestry. If you would like more information call Kevin Zobrist at 425.357.6017 or visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/>

Forestry Fun Day on **May 15th** is a cooperative event between Grays Harbor Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Services, Department of Natural Resources, Grays Harbor College and WSU Extension. Although the fun day is open to all age groups, youth under 14 years of age will need to be accompanied by an adult. Come join us and have your forestry questions answered by local professionals. Find out what assistance programs might be available to you and about keeping your forest healthy. Contact Theresa Marquardt at Theresa.marquardt@conserveva.net or 360.249.5900 ext 106

Forest Landowners Management Plan and County Open Space Forestland Plan Crossover workshop is being planned statewide starting in May. The purpose of the workshops is to develop management plans suitable for American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and County forest tax classification purposes. Tree Farmers will have the opportunity to complete a basic management plan for their ownership that will enable them to become certified through the ATFS. Washington Tree Farm Program will be sponsoring the Lewis county workshop **May 22**, Clark county **June 19th** and Spokane County **June 26th**. For more info visit www.watreefarm.org or call 360.789.1265.

Spray Drift Management if Rights-of-way and Forestry will be presented by the Western Forestry and Conservation Association on **June 4th, 2010** in Portland, Oregon. For more information or to register contact Michele at Michele@westernforestry.org or by calling 1.888.722.9416.

Forest Landowner National Conference will be held in Stevenson, Washington **June 2-4**. The conference theme is **Shared Values, Shared Challenges: An Exploration of the Pacific Northwest**. While traditional educational sessions will provide you with direct access to top experts and service and product providers in forestry, on-the-ground exploration tours of various aspects of forestry in the Pacific Northwest will demonstrate what forest landowners across the country have in common. For more information visit <https://www.forestlandowners.com/>.

Idaho and NE Washington will host a forest owner's field day **June 12th, 2010**. Whether you own a few acres or a large tract of land, this educational event is for you! You will learn how to plan and implement sound forest management practices. Join the more than 7,000 people who have already attended events across Idaho and Washington. Forests play a critical role in water quality and quantity. This year's joint Idaho–Washington Forest Owners Field Day will have a special focus on practices that maintain or add to the health of the Spokane Valley–Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Tell a friend! If you think forests are vital to the quality of life in the Inland Northwest, please pass this information along to your neighbor! More information is available at <http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/> or by calling UI Extension at 208.446.1680.

News

Oregon NRCS looking for new State Forester. If you are interested in being the next state forester for the Natural Resource Conservation Service the application period is currently open. You can find more information at www.usajobs.opm.gov and search for NRCS-OR-10-17B. Good Luck!

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts Nursery will have native plants on sale until the first week in May. For more information on what is available visit <http://www.wacd.org/> or contact Jacquie Gauthier at 360.757.1094 or pmcsales@clearwire.net.

Raccoon distemper suspected in King County–King County residents are reminded to avoid feeding wildlife, keep domestic pets away from wild animals, and be sure their pets' vaccinations are current, in response to a suspected outbreak of canine distemper in area raccoons. Samples from a raccoon collected in Bellevue have been submitted to Washington State University for disease testing, and final results are expected early next week. Canine distemper is not transmissible to humans but is highly contagious among dogs, ferrets, and certain wild animals such as raccoons, coyotes, skunks, weasels and harbor seals. Cats are not affected by canine distemper. "Dogs are normally vaccinated against canine distemper, but the disease has become generally uncommon and some pet owners are not getting their pets vaccinated," said Dr. Sharon Hopkins, the Veterinarian for Public Health - Seattle & King County. "If you have questions or concerns about your pets' immunity to canine distemper, contact your veterinarian." Distemper causes encephalitis, inflammation of the brain, in animals. Infected animals may have runny eyes and stagger, tremble, foam at the mouth or snap, according to veterinarians. Daytime activity by a raccoon does not necessarily indicate the animal is sick. <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/zoonotics/raccoons.aspx>

WADNR and the USFS have completed the Forest Health Highlights report. The featured report is a summary of the previous year's findings and treatments as well as the forecast for 2010. If you have not read the report visit http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp_fh_2009_forest_health_highlights.pdf.

Douglas-fir Disease along Oregon and Washington coasts- A fungal disease attacking Douglas-fir trees along the Pacific Northwest coast is intensifying and may be linked to a warmer climate and extensive planting of Douglas-fir on logged tracts, new Oregon State University [research](#) suggests. To read more visit http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/04/douglas-fir_disease_spreading.html

Regulators approve cow manure power deal- BOISE, Idaho — State utility regulators say they have approved a long term contract between Idaho Power Co. and a company generating power from cow manure. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission approved the deal between the state's biggest utility and Cargill, Inc., which operates an anaerobic digester near the southern Idaho town of Hansen.

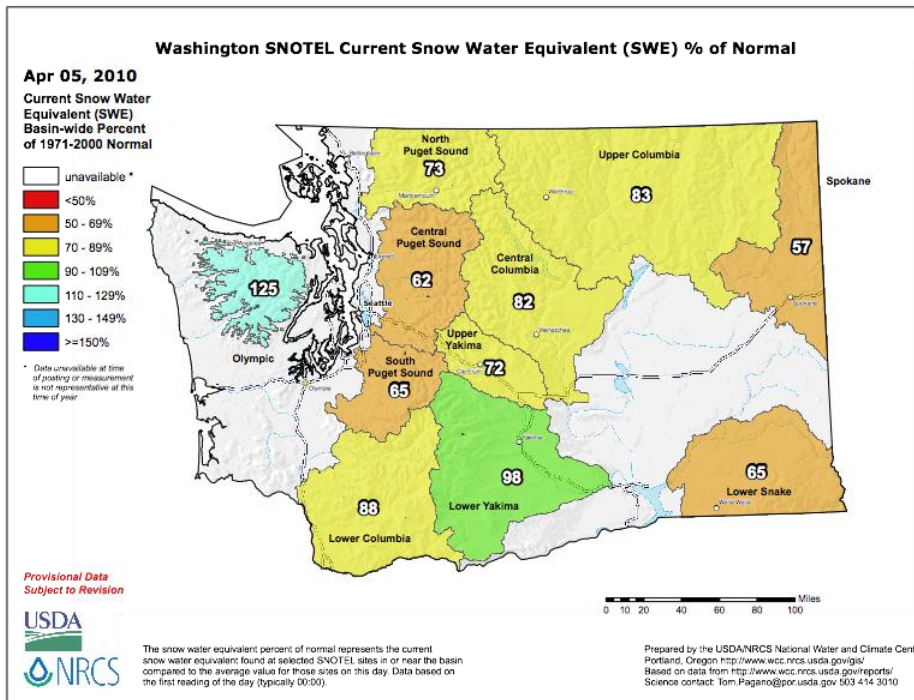
Read more: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2010/04/06/1142975/regulators-approve-cow-manure.html#ixzz0lDeFcYje>

WFPA, Cascade Land Conservancy and NW Indian Fisheries Commission produced a working together video. Leaders from the various communities have a dialogue about the pressure on our private forest land base from increasing population and the importance of working together to maintain working forests on our landscape. To watch the video visit <http://workingforestalliance.org/index.html>

Weather Synopsis

The beginning of the month started out relatively dry across the state, with temperatures slightly warmer than normal. A cold front moved through overnight on March 7, bringing rain to most locations and even some snow: SeaTac Airport recorded a trace of snow on March 8. Cooler temperatures settled across the state for a few days as well as some precipitation that brought snow to the mountains. SeaTac Airport and Olympia tied their record lows on March 9 (28°F; 23°F). By mid-month temperatures were warmer than normal and the state was relatively dry. Some record high daily temperatures were set on March 24: 64°F in Bellingham, 68°F at SeaTac AP, and 70°F at Seattle WFO. Another system moved through on March 25, bringing precipitation mainly to western WA and the threat of thunderstorms east of the Cascades. Cooler and wetter conditions occurred in the whole state during the last few days of the month as a cold front and upper-level trough moved through (March 28 & 29). New snow





in the mountains was measured in feet, wind gusts were anywhere between 35 (lowlands) and 92 (Olympic Mountains) mph, and some minor flooding occurred on the Olympic Peninsula.

The weather synopsis is brought to you by the Office of the Washington State Climatologist. To sign up for the monthly Washington state weather newsletter please visit <http://www.climate.washington.edu/>. There are also many good weather and climate

resources for you to enjoy and activities for the family.

Links

Washington Farm Forestry

<http://www.wafarmforestry.com/>

Washington State University Cooperative Extension

<http://ext.wsu.edu/forestry/index.htm>

Northwest Natural Resources Group

<http://www.nnrg.org>

Family Forest Foundation

<http://www.familyforestfoundation.org/>

Smallwood Utilization Network

<http://www.smallwoodnews.com/>

Ties to the Land

<http://www.tiestotheland.org/>

Consulting Foresters Directory

<http://cahedb.wsu.edu/NatRes/scripts/webMain.asp>

Office of the Washington State Climatologist

<http://www.climate.washington.edu/index.html>

American Tree Farm System

<http://www.treefarmssystem.org/>

The Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) serves as a resource and focal point for small forest landowner concerns and policies. With a mission to promote the economic and ecological viability of small forest landowners, the office seeks to develop policies that conserve Washington's privately owned non-industrial forests. Recognizing the significant contributions small landowners make to protecting Washington's public natural resources, the office strives to equip landowners with all the necessary tools and information they need to keep their land in forestry use.

If you would no longer like to receive this update please email us at SFLO@dnr.wa.gov or call 360.902.1400. The new format for our newsletter is web based. A link will be sent to you via our e-subscriber email system. You may have to adjust your spam or junk mail settings to allow mail from WADNR@govdelivery.com

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